

### DRAFT RESISTERS

There were 21,407 men indicted by the government for Selective Service violations from 1965 to 1972. In addition, there are over 5,700 outstanding indictments, and 35,000 awaiting indictment. There are also an estimated 5,000 - 100,000 nonregistrants that don't appear in any statistics.

### DISCHARGES

The overwhelming majority of the service-people have been given debilitating bad discharges as a *direct* result of overt opposition to the war, or to racism and oppression rooted in the military.

During the Vietnam Era: 560,000 (half of these are Black, Chicano or Puerto Rican resisters)

### CIVILIAN RESISTERS

Over 200,000 civilians have been arrested or convicted during the Vietnam Era for opposition to the war.

*"I think he did the right thing. This war should never have happened. It was wrong to send all those men over there for nothing... Johnnie's done nothing wrong and he should be able to come home."*

— John Picciano, Sr., Lodi, N.J.  
whose son, John, Jr., is a "deserter".

*"There were a lot of young men who were honestly opposed to this war and were unwilling to be involved where possibly they would be killing other people for a cause they didn't believe in. I'm not opposed to amnesty for such persons."*

Major Herbert Flesher, Sacramento, Calif.  
recently released POW.

## GET INVOLVED...

**SEND** for free literature about war resistance and amnesty. Distribute literature to your family and friends.

**HELP** organize a FORA chapter in your city or town, or offer assistance to the existing chapter. (Contact NY office for information.)

**WRITE** your elected Senator and Representative, urging them to support legislation for universal, unconditional amnesty for all categories of war resisters. Write your local newspapers. Urge your friends and relatives to do the same.

**WEAR** a button supporting amnesty and a resister bracelet, which carries the name of a draft or military resister. (Available soon.)

**CONTACT** local church groups, community groups, labor unions, PTAs, campus organizations, and the like. Distribute literature to them, speak at their meetings, and urge their support for amnesty.

Clip and mail to:

### FORA

69 FIRST AVE.  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10003

I AM INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF FORA.

MY \_\_\_\_\_ IS A  
(relation)  
DRAFT RESISTER/MILITARY "DESERTER"  
(Circle One)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_





FORA is an independent committee of families of war resisters. Our objective is to obtain a universal, unconditional amnesty for our relatives who have either:

1. refused induction into the military;
2. "deserted" as a means of protesting the war in Indochina;
3. received less-than-honorable discharges as a result of resistance to the war, racism, or oppression rooted in the military system; or
4. are, or have been imprisoned because of their resistance to the war.

The war in Indochina has been America's longest and most unpopular war. Despite the fact that the vast majority of the American people opposed the war, President Nixon carried it on for over four years beyond his 1968 campaign pledge to reveal his "secret plan" to end it. But now, his "peace with honor" has arrived — under the same terms that could have been signed in 1967 and every subsequent year. This peace has cost over 55,000 dead and over 300,000 wounded in U.S. casualties alone.

Now, President Nixon is demanding that those who have, for political or moral reasons, refused to participate (or to continue participation) in this war "pay the price" for their "dishonor". To avoid the direct question of responsibility for the war and its costs to the American people, he firmly states that he cannot "forgive" the "few hundred" military and draft resisters — that to do so would be an "insult to the memories of those who fought and died" in Indochina.

This attempt to draw a connection between *resistance* to the war and *responsibility* for the war's human toll is particularly ominous, but need not go unchecked. Two Gold Star Mothers respond:

*"Nixon says it makes a mockery of our sons — those are his words — makes a mockery of our sons if there's not some price exacted from those who didn't serve. But I don't demand a price, because the exiles did the right and moral thing . . . to me, there is absolutely nothing to forgive."*

— Mrs. Patricia Simon, Newton Center, Mass.  
whose only son, David, was killed on  
January 4, 1968 in Vietnam.

And,

*"I can't understand why he (President Nixon) lies like that. He must know that there are thousands of exiles: Of course, he knows. He just doesn't want Americans to come to grips with the seriousness of the problem."*

— Mrs. Louise Ransom, Bronxville, N.Y.  
whose son, Michael, was killed in  
May, 1968 in Vietnam.

About these figures: numerous authorities, including the Pentagon itself, number the draft violators and military deserters in the hundreds of thousands. (See graphs)

Vice-President Agnew, in a March 3, 1973 address to the VFW, carries President Nixon's view further:

*"... These draft dodgers and deserters have not admitted that they were wrong; on the contrary, they say that the country is wrong and they are right. Until they recognize that it is they who have erred and not the country, we must be unyielding in how we treat them."*

What Mr. Agnew fails to mention in his speech is that the "country", for the most part, opposed the war. Either he refuses to recognize this fact, or he means "government" when he says "country".

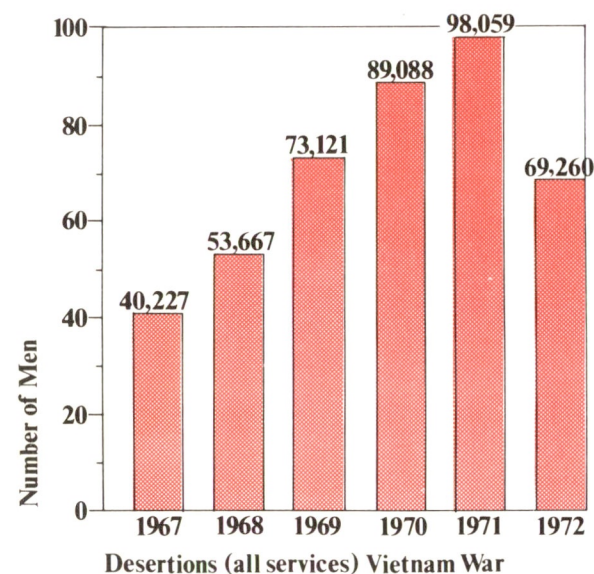
As relatives, we too must speak out on this issue that concerns us more personally than anyone else in this country. Our sons and brothers are unable to counteract the continuing distortions put forth by the White House and the Pentagon, because they are either in forced exile, in prison, or living underground in the United States. But we are not so restricted. We *can* act in their behalf — and this is what FORA is all about. The establishment of FORA has become increasingly urgent as the government continues to distort our relatives' cause and the amnesty issue — much as they previously distorted the issue of the war itself.

As FORA members, we can begin by contacting and organizing family members (including members of our own families) into chapters in cities and towns across the country. We can also address various local organizations, such as church groups, PTAs, Community groups, trade unions, and the like, as a means of winning understanding for our relatives' demand for a just amnesty.

FORA has recently opened an office in Washington, D.C. to undertake lobbying and petitioning both in Congress and at the White House. We have launched a national campaign to "Tell It To Washington" and to urge thousands of families like ourselves to rally support of a just amnesty.

We appeal to you — as the parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, children, and in-laws of war resisters — to join us in supporting and building FORA. Please complete the form in this brochure and mail it today!

## DESERTERS



As these figures indicate, over 450,000 men left the military from 1967 to 1972. The number who left prior to 1967 is unknown, but an additional 28,000 have "deserted" during the first months of 1973. At any given time, there are 35,000 deserters "at large".